

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 12-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 12, 15-17, 19 and 20 have been amended. Also, claims 21-26 have been presented herewith. Claims 1-11 have been canceled.

Also by this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been revised to identify the parent application.

Also, enclosed are four (4) sheets of annotated marked-up drawings, wherein the cross-sectional reference line in Fig. 1(A) has been denoted as "1B-1B", the cross-sectional reference line in Fig. 2(A) has been denoted as "2B-2B", the cross-sectional reference line in Fig. 5 has been denoted as "4-4", and the cross-sectional reference line in Fig. 7(A) has been denoted as "7B-7B". Also in Fig. 7(A), the extraneous line has been deleted. The formal drawings as provided along with this application incorporate the drawing corrections therein.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

Serial No. NEW

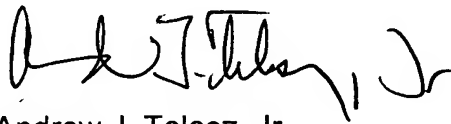
OKI.178D

Preliminary Amendment dated September 11, 2003

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Telesz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.
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Enclosures: Four (4) sheets of Annotated Marked-up Drawings

Fig.1(A)

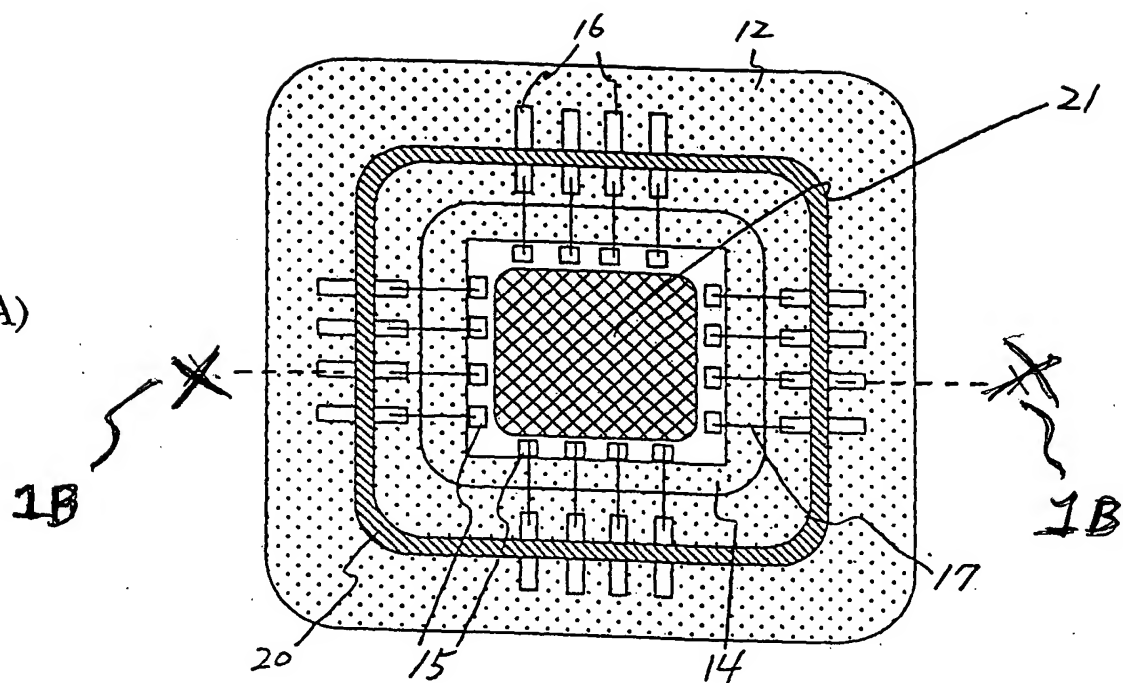


Fig.1(B)

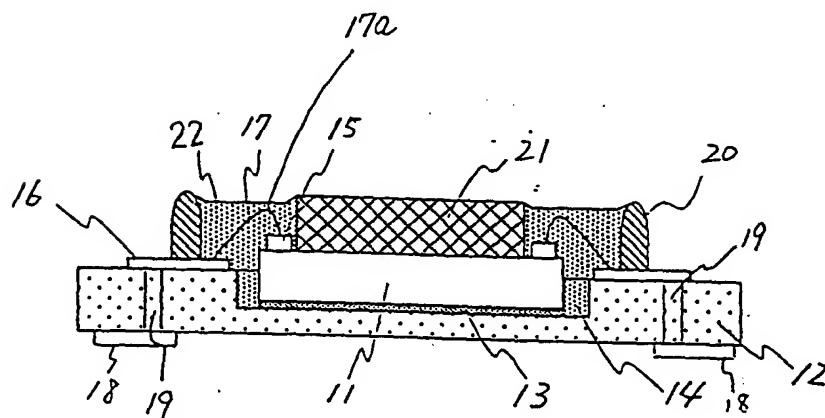


Fig.2(A)

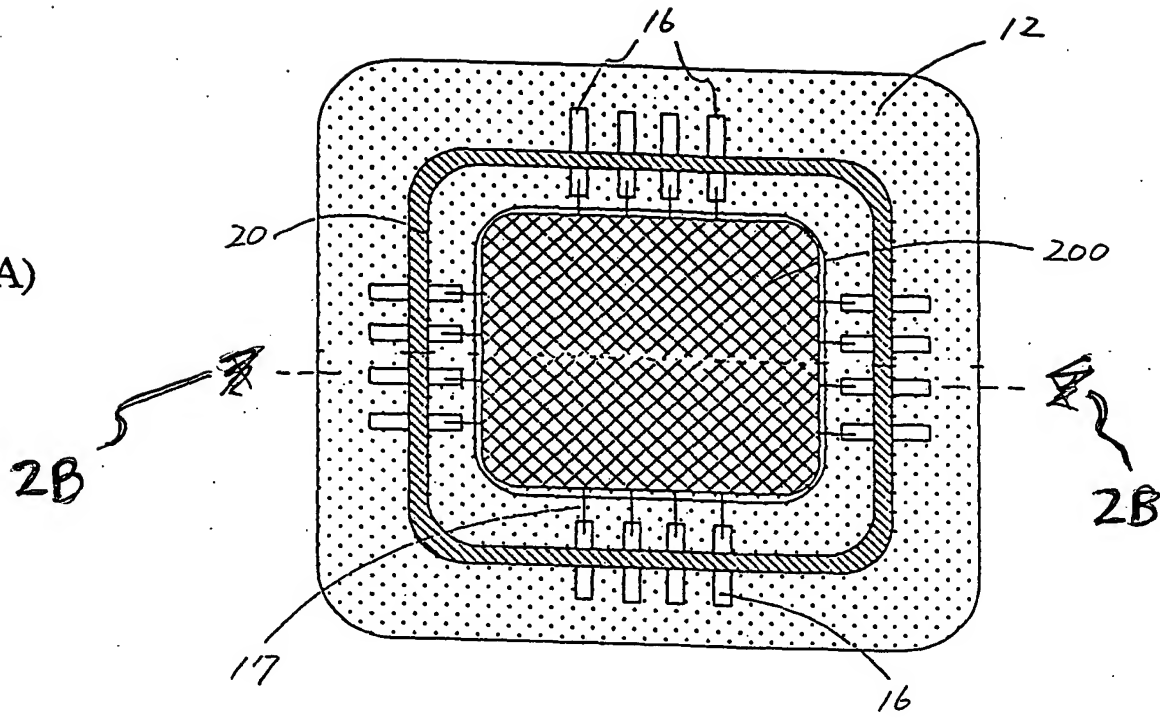


Fig.2(B)

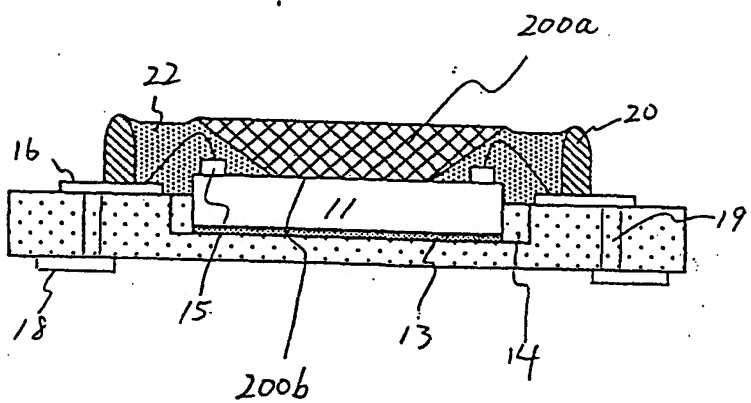


Fig.5

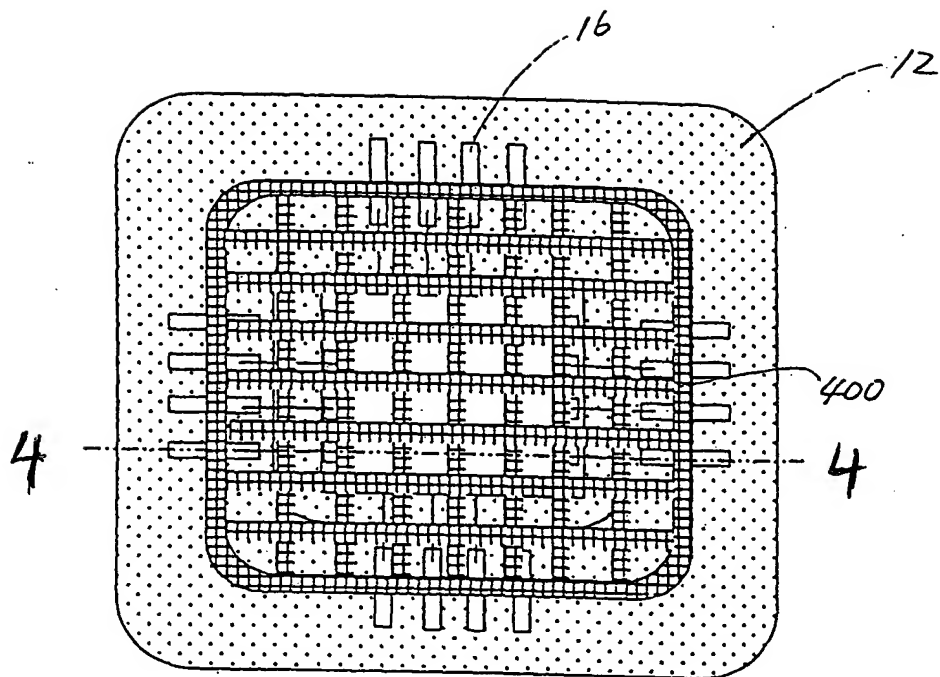


Fig.7(A)

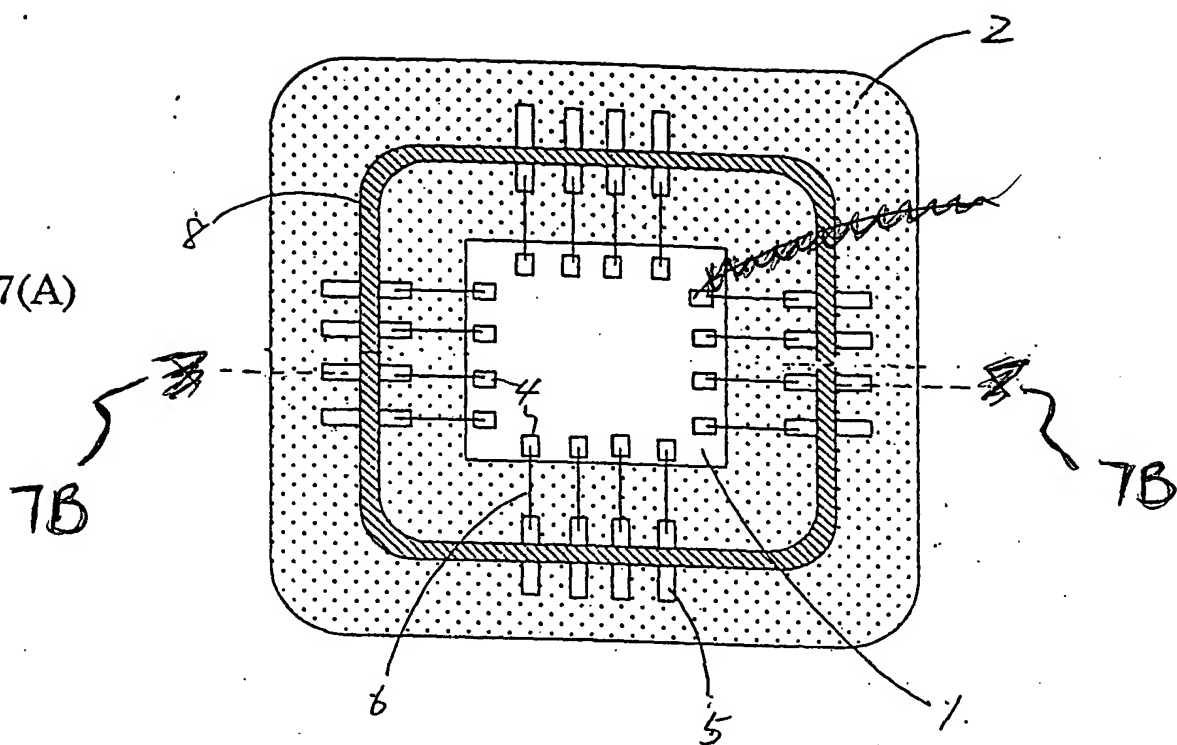


Fig.7(B)

